

## **Regional Workshop Series: Promoting Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management Systems**

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In cooperation with the Regions, Office of Research and Development's (ORD) National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL) delivered a workshop series in 2002-2003 promoting pollution prevention tools and approaches and environmental management system planning for organizations. The workshop agenda was developed from the ORD manual, *An Organizational Guide to Pollution Prevention*. Each consisted of three days of sixty or more attendees participating in exercises and interactive lecture to learn and practice tools and approaches.

Pollution prevention is the most desirable choice for waste management and toxic reduction and has been a priority of the USEPA for over ten years. New methodologies have been developed in the last decade adding to the knowledge of practical application. *An Organizational Guide to Pollution Prevention* was developed and published to stimulate the practice of pollution prevention as a continual improvement concept from the environmental management systems model. Once the manual was published, the workshop series was developed and delivered to provide 'one-on-one' practical applications to promote the tools and approaches described in the manual.

The Regional P2 and Waste Management Coordinators sponsored and promoted the workshop, spending time and money to assist ORD in planning, coordinating and conducting the workshops. P2Rx, a national network of internet P2 providers, state and local governments, technical assistance providers, and trade associations all joined in promoting the workshops and distributing the information to many businesses and the regulated world at large. Due to the advertising network, approximately fifty percent of the workshop participants represented industry, bringing a perspective to the table not always enjoyed by the regulating community.

The participants were highly enthusiastic and returned accolades on the agenda and the motivated facilitators, Cam Metcalf, Executive Director of the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, and Bob Pojasek, Pojasek and Associates. These facilitators were selected for their international expertise in pollution prevention tools and environmental management.

The exposure to fundamental concepts, with the opportunity to practice the methods, promoted the acceptance and future use of the tools and approaches. The workshop series introduced the participants to the basic ideas and tools that can make the job of prevention more practical and successful, moving toward a sustainable future for the environment and for industry.

Several of the workshops were videotaped in order to create a multimedia training product that will be distributed more broadly and facilitate learning outside of the classroom. This CD will be available in late 2004.